Cases pending before CEGAT for Settlement

1480. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pending before Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal for settlement as on 31.12.98 together with the period of their pendency;

(b) what are the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for speedy settlements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Sir, the number of appeals pending with the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal is 34645 as on 31.12.1998. The year-wise pendency position is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) The reasons for pendency of appeals are as under:

(i) A number of appeals involving Public Sector Undertakings and the Central Government Departments have to be kept pending till clearance is obtained by the appellant Department/Public Sector Undertaking from the Committee on Disputes as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ONGC's case;

(ii) Some appeals are kept pending as the issue regarding raising of demand for Central Excise duty for past period has been referred to the Constitutional Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and

(iii) A number of appeals have been kept pending as the appellants have applied for Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme.

(c) The following steps have been taken for expeditious disposal of the appeals;

(i) Regional Benches have been empowered to hear and decide appeals relating to Classification and Valuation matters;

(ii) Appeals involving amount upto Rs. ten lakhs can now be decided by a Single Member Bench as against Rs. one lakh limit earlier prescribed;

(iii) Circuit Benches have been set up from time to time;

(iv) A Pilot project for computerisation has been approved.

Statement

Details of Year-wise pendency of Appeals in CEGAT

Position as on 31.12.1998

As per Existing Record

Sl. No.	Year	No. of appeals pending
1.	1980	1
2.	1981	4
3.	1982	1
4.	1983	16
5.	1984	7
6.	1985	15
7.	1986	41
8.	1987	104
9.	1988	334
10.	1989	486
11.	1990	663
12.	1991	1016
13.	1992	1727
14.	1993	2145
15.	1994	2141
16.	1995	2988
17.	1996	3603
18.	1997	6651
19.	1998	12702
		34645